



# The Ames Intelligencer

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## Hans J. Hansen, Danish Craftsman and Builder in Early Ames

*By Nick Howell & Jean Jonas,  
from text prepared for The Story Center  
exhibition, Early Ames Builders*

In 1880, Rasmus Hansen, a weaver, migrated from Denmark to America leaving his wife behind with their two children. Six years later, in 1886, one of those children, Hans Jacob Hansen, followed his father to America. He was fifteen years old and considered a natural citizen because he was under eighteen.

Hans lived on his father's farm north of Ames and worked for builders in the area. To learn English, Hans attended Bloomfield School even though he sat beside children much younger.



When he was 25, Hans returned to Denmark and studied at Kjong Højskole in Glamsberg to develop his carpentry skills. Returning to Ames in 1898, he worked for Thompson and Duntz Construction and early the next year, started his own contracting business building barns on Story County farms.

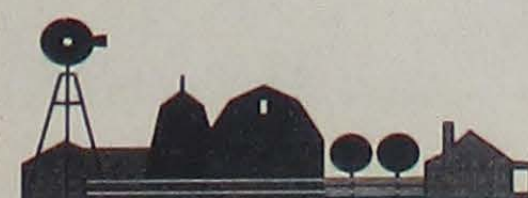
In 1907, Hans married Ellen Peterson, a Swedish immigrant. Hans and Ellen had two children, Robert Hansen and Ruth Hansen Boast.

In 1940, after a long and noteworthy career, Hans retired from building homes, but continued using his carpentry skills by making furniture. Hans was an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

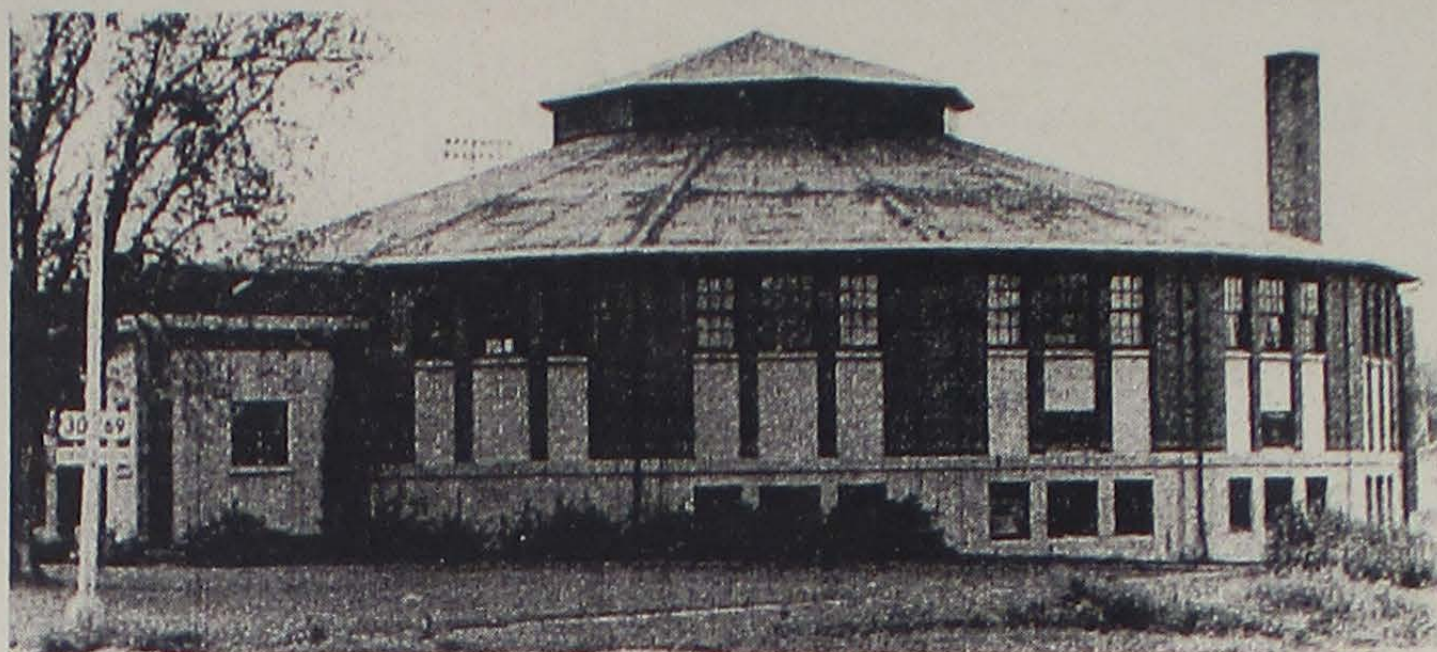
### Buildings by Hans J. Hansen

- 1899 J.K. Peterson Home, Nevada
- 1899 N. Nelson Barn, 612 Burnett
- 1900 H.ans J. Hansen Workshop  
612 Burnett, Ames
- 1900 John Taylor Barn, SE of Ames
- 1900 Frank Kinsman Barn, Nevada,
- 1903 A. Bartholomew Home,  
612 Burnett
- 1903 Frank Cupps Home, 203 E. 6th
- 1903 Sunshine Club, 218 Welch
- 1903 Walter Grove Barn
- 1903 Frank Warren Barn
- 1903 John Mather Barn, Nevada
- 1904 Peter Christofferson Barn
- 1906 George Brown Home, Gilbert
- 1907 Rev. Hussong Parsonage  
U. Brethren Church, 312 S. 2nd
- 1907 A. Bartholomew Home,  
604 Grand Avenue
- 1908 C.E. Bartholomew Home  
608 Grand Avenue, Ames
- 1908 Bartholomew Home  
503 Grand Avenue, Ames
- 1909 H.W.Kingsbury Home, Nevada
- 1910 Arvid Alm Home, 219 Sherman
- 1910 Frank Cobb Home, west Ames
- 1910 Jim Dale Barn
- 1910 Julius T. Jensen Home
- 1911 J.K. Peterson Barn, Nevada

- 1911 Sam Allen Home, south of  
present day Ames Country Club
- 1911 Frank Warren Home, Ames
- 1911 Peterson Home, Maxwell
- 1912 Chautauqua Auditorium  
East 9th Street, Ames
- 1913 Frank Cobb Barns, west Ames
- 1913[?] Henry Banks Home
- 1914 L.W. Foreman Home
- 1914 Jennie Crosby Home, 618 7th
- 1915 Carrie P. Murphy, 918 Burnett
- 1916 Charles Reynolds Home,  
704 Burnett Avenue, Ames
- 1918 Frank Kingsbury Barns (2)
- 1918 Peter Lange Barn
- 1920 Faber Home, 813 9th
- 1920 T.J. Maney Home,  
920 Brookridge, Ames
- 1920 Calvin Ringgenberg Barn  
Southwest of Ames
- 1920 [?] A. Kelly Barn  
North of [present day] Airport Road
- 1923 J.S. Dodds Home, 213 8th
- 1924 [?] Frank Thies Home, 320 8th
- 1924 L.W. Foreman Home,  
427 Lynn, Ames
- 1930 Mrs. J.K. Peterson Home  
Nevada
- 1930 Peter Lang Home, E. 16th
- 1930 Hans Rasmussen Corn Crib  
East of Ames
- 1931 H.P. Jensen Barn, west of  
present day Oakes Golf Course
- 1936 Hans Hansen Rental Home,  
1119 Curtiss, Ames
- 1937 M. Chipman Home,  
1119 Marston, Ames
- 1940 Ruth Hansen Boast Home  
1115 Curtiss, Ames
- 19[??] Ghrist Barn
- 19[??] William Taylor Barn







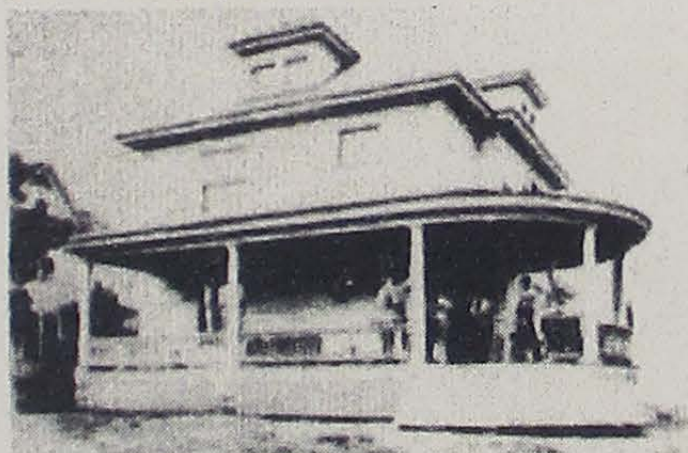
### J.K. Peterson Home, 1899

This was the first home that Hans Hansen built, 2 miles west of Nevada. During a recent remodeling, Hans Hansen's signature was uncovered on the header above the bay window. This late Queen Anne Victorian home had features like rain gutters built into the roof, making it an upper scale home for its time. The barn was also built by Hans Hansen during the same period.

### C.L. Buckton Home, 1905

627 7th St. (below)

This four square home with a rounded corner porch is owned by John and Joyce Packwood.



### A. Bartholomew Home, 1903

612 Burnett (below)

Built by Hansen for A. Bartholomew, Hans moved into this home when he married in 1907. Demolished in 1962, the house was located on the north-east corner of 6th and Burnett.



### Chautauqua Auditorium, 1912

(above)

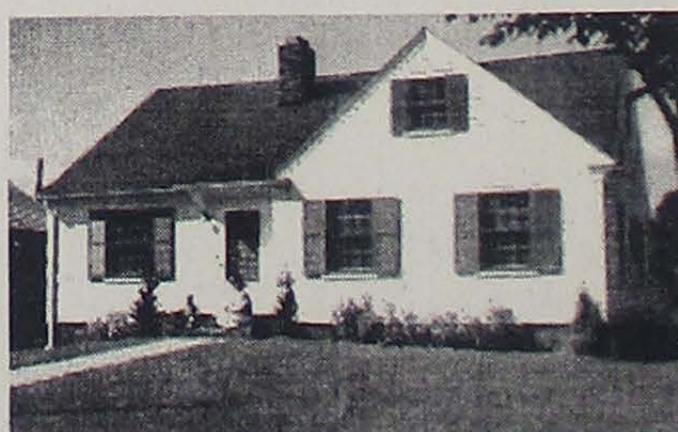
Located on the edge of the city cemetery, this building was used for public events and is one of the few public buildings Hans Hansen built. In 1927, the Chautauqua Auditorium was moved to the area which is now the old Target parking lot on Lincoln Way and was enclosed. This became the Ames High Field House.

### Hansen Workshop, 1900

612 Burnett

"One of his first barns was one he built for himself on the back lot of 612 Burnett in Ames in 1900. He lived in two rooms of this barn which had plastered walls and heating stoves. The barn had a haymow on the second level and below stable and wagon and buggy space. Hansen lived in the barn until he married in 1907 and moved into a showhouse he built on the lot in 1903, complete with birch floors, living room and parlor. He lived in the house until he died in 1962 at the age of 90."

The Iowa Barn Foundation;  
Fall '98; Vol. 1; No. 2



### Warren & Ruth Hansen Boast Home, 1940; 1115 Curtiss (above)

This is the last home that Hans Hansen built. He constructed it for his daughter Ruth Hansen Boast. It is typical of 1940's architecture.

### W. "Ped" Kintzley Home, 1908

3621 Woodland (below, two views)

The era starting in 1900 was a time of transition in architecture. With the advent of the machine age and World War I there was a desire to simplify. The Kintzley home, though Queen Anne in style, lacks many of the architectural features of the Queen Annes of earlier periods. Features like eave brackets and gable shingles were removed from the facade of these buildings. Hansen's pay in 1908 was 35 cents per hour; the total labor bill for the Ped Kintzley home was \$409.20. The most notable recent resident of the Kintzley home was I.S.U. Basketball Coach Tim Floyd and family. The Floyds sold the house in 1998 for \$350,000.00.



### John & Carrie Pike Murphy Home, 1915, 918 Burnett (below)

This home represents the early craftsman era of architecture. The original deposit slip for the Murphy home. This down payment represents half the value of the home during that time period.





# 'Readin', 'Ritin' & 'Rrithmetic

## Summer 1999 Hoggatt School Report

by Carole Jensen, Chair,  
Hoggatt School Committee

Our school open days have come to a close. Colder weather is on the way and there is no heat in the building, so the school is officially closed from November 1st to March 31st. The school "to bed" for the winter.

We had many wonderful experiences at the school this summer. In the last issue I thanked all our volunteers but missed Carmen & Rupert Kenyon. They also hosted at the school and I appreciated their willingness to help.

At the school we ask people who attended a one room school to write their experiences in a notebook. Here are two of the stories shared:

"I went to a one room school in Cedar County for 8 years. I'm one of those people who had good & bad experiences. Good - when we had a good teacher - not so good at a key point in my learning. Some problems are with me today. Good experiences have carried over to today also. One problem was we were a very small school with only 2 of us in the same grade from 4th or 5th grade until 8th."

*Jerry Parsons.*

"I went to a one room school house (Toates School District, Moody County, South Dakota) through grade six, when the school was closed. It was a great experience because I listened to the older children and their classes. We often had no one in a grade and there were never more than three in a grade.

I remember playing soft ball every day the weather cooperated. We'd start playing when we got to school in the morning and the game continued all day. We had a play at Christmas time and a box social once a year. I remember participating in some county wide events such as a softball tournament, art contests, etc.

I recall once when the teacher was going to eliminate the use of the word "ain't". If anyone was caught saying "ain't" your name was written on the blackboard. All the boys were determined to get their name on the board as many times as possible."

*Ada Mae Lewis*



Maps were purchased for Hoggatt School this year.



## A.H.A. News

### Drawing Winner

Drawing entries were taken in September at The Story Center for a copy of Farwell Brown's new book on Ames History. The winner was Jim Brown, of Ames.



### Exhibits at The Story Center to January 30

From Mud to Miracle Mile:

The Lincoln Highway in  
Ames & Story County

From Necessity to Nuisance:

The Railroad in Ames  
The History of Iowa Transportation

Hours: Mon 5-8pm; Wed 11am-2pm;  
Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 2-5pm

### Museum Wish List:

- street-level, temperature controlled storage space
- dehumidifier
- hammers, screwdrivers & other small handtools; metal yard stick
- mat cutter with guide,
- 8½ x 11 paper for printer
- blank PC computer disks
- spray adhesive
- materials for a worktable with underneath flat storage
- florescent light for work area
- hood vent
- stackable chairs (up to 20)
- ladders - 8, 10, or 12 foot

### Historic Images in Main Street Pillars

The improvements on Main Street included installation of a series of decorative pillars on each street corner. The pillars are red brick, and frame ceramic sculptural tiles depicting various images from Ames history, like The Dinkey, The Intelligencer, Tilden's Store, O'Neil's Dairy, John Blair and Oakes Ames.



# We Thank All Our Donors *Museum Fund Grows*

Bruce & Nancy Adams  
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John & Elaine Bath  
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Mary Watkins  
Sharon & Don Wirth  
Don & Heather Withers  
Don Zytowski

## Lease Extended!

AHA has extended the lease for The Story Center through June 2000. The Board is extremely grateful for the support provided by members and other donors, though additional funds are still necessary to ensure operations through June, and beyond.

Yes, I'd like to help.

Please accept the following donation:

- ☐ \$100   ☐ \$250  
☐ \$5000   ☐ \$1000  
☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Town, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ames Heritage Association is a 501C3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.



Robert & Barbara Egemo stand with a display about their father, builder Tores Egemo.

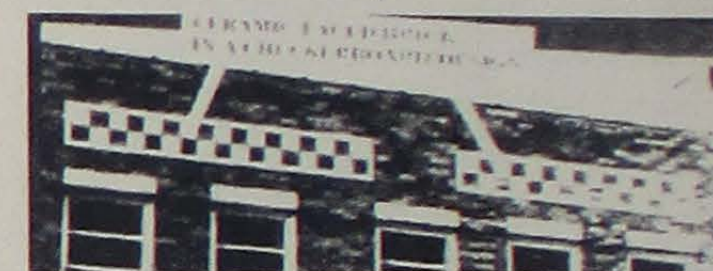
## Ames Intelligencer

Ames Heritage Association  
PO Box 821  
Ames, Iowa 50010

## Architecture on Main



Sharon Wirth organized an exhibit about Main Street architecture in September and October.



Ames Heritage Association Board: Pres. Kathy Svec; Sec. Willie Struss; Treas. Bill LaGrange; Rollie Struss, Peggy Baer, Carole Jensen, Diane Schmitt, Jean Jonas, Mark Hamin, Steve Kirts, Suann Evans.

Ames Heritage Association is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs and displays. The Board meets monthly September - June. The Ames Intelligencer is named after an early Ames newspaper and is published three times a year for Association members. Direct comments or questions to the Editor.

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